

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image sensing apparatus,  
comprising:

synthesis target image data storage means for storing in a storage device  
data representing a plurality of synthesis target images of a foreground subject  
obtained by photography under different photographic conditions;

photographic-condition storage means for separately storing in the  
storage device data representing photographic conditions prevailing at the time  
of photography for each of the plurality of synthesis target images;

image sensing means for photographing a background and outputting  
data representing a background image;

synthesis target image selection means for selecting a synthesis target  
image data of the foreground subject suited to the background image from the  
plurality of synthesis target image data of the foreground subject stored in said  
synthesis target image data storage means, based upon a photographic  
condition prevailing at the time the background image was photographed said  
image sensing means and the separately stored data from the storage device  
representing the photographic conditions of the plurality of synthesis target  
images; and

image synthesis means for combining the synthesis target image of the foreground subject selected by said synthesis target image selection means with the background image output from said image sensing means, and outputting composite image data representing a composite image.

2. (ORIGINAL) image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said synthesis target image selection means automatically selects one item of synthesis target image data suited to the background image from the plurality of items of synthesis target image data based upon photographic conditions of the synthesis target image and of the background image.

3. (ORIGINAL) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising selection command input means for inputting a selection command;

said synthesis target image selection means selecting the synthesis target image data from said plurality of items of synthesis target image data in dependence upon a selection command input from said selection command input means.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~photographic condition storage means for storing photographic conditions prevailing at time of photography of the synthesis target image; and~~

image adjustment means for applying image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image represented by the selected synthesis target image data based upon the photographic conditions of the synthesis target image corresponding to the synthesis target image data selected by said synthesis target image selection means and photographic conditions of the background image;

wherein said image synthesis means ~~combining~~ combines the synthesis target image, which has been subjected to image adjustment processing by said image adjustment means, with the background image.

5. (ORIGINAL) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

image adjustment command input means for inputting an image adjustment command for at least one of a color adjustment and luminance adjustment; and

image adjustment means for applying image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis

target image represented by the selected synthesis target image data based upon an image adjustment command input from said image adjustment command input means;

said image synthesis means combining the synthesis target image data, which has been subjected to image adjustment processing by said image adjustment means, with the background image data.

6. (ORIGINAL) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying images;

background image display control means for controlling said display unit so as to display the background image sensed by said image sensing means; and

composite image display control means for controlling said display unit so as to display the composite image synthesized by said image synthesis means.

7. (ORIGINAL) An image sensing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

adjustment command input means for inputting an adjustment command for at least one of position and size adjustment of a synthesis target image being displayed on said display unit; and

adjustment means for applying an adjustment for at least one of position and size adjustment of the synthesis target image based upon the adjustment command input from said adjustment command input means.

8-12. (CANCELED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image sensing method, comprising:  
storing in a storage device data representing a plurality of synthesis target images of a foreground subject obtained by photography under different photographic conditions;

separately storing in the storage device data representing photographic conditions prevailing at the time of photography for each of the plurality of synthesis target images;

photographing a background and outputting data representing a background image;

selecting a synthesis target image data of the foreground subject suited to the background image from the stored plurality of synthesis target image data of the foreground subject based upon a photographic condition prevailing at the time the background image was photographed and the separately stored data from the storage device representing the photographic conditions of the plurality of synthesis target images; and

combining the selected synthesis target image data of the foreground subject with the background image and outputting composite image data representing a composite image.

14-16. (CANCELED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image sensing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the photographic conditions stored in the storage device for the plurality of synthesis target images include ~~includes~~ a lighting condition.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image sensing apparatus of claim 17, wherein the lighting condition includes any one or more of a strobe photography, frontlit photography, cloudy-weather photography, ~~or~~ backlit photography, color temperature, brightness, contrast, and luminance.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image sensing method of claim 13, wherein the photographic condition s stored in the storage device for the plurality of synthesis target images include ~~includes~~ a lighting condition.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image sensing method of claim 19, wherein the lighting condition includes any one or more of a strobe photography, frontlit photography, cloudy-weather photography, ~~or~~ backlit photography, color temperature, brightness, contrast, and luminance.

21. (NEW) The image sensing method of claim 13, wherein said step of selecting the synthesis target image data comprises automatically selecting one item of synthesis target image data suited to the background image from the plurality of items of synthesis target image data based upon photographic conditions of the synthesis target image and of the background image.

22. (NEW) An image sensing method of claim 13, wherein said step of selecting the synthesis target image data comprises:

receiving a selection comment input; and

selecting the synthesis target image data from said plurality of items of synthesis target image data based on the selection command input.

23. (NEW) An image sensing method of claim 13, further comprising applying an image adjustment processing for at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image represented by the selected synthesis target image data based upon the photographic conditions of the synthesis target image corresponding to the synthesis target image data selected by said synthesis target image selection means and photographic conditions of the background image,

wherein said step of combining the selected target image data includes combining the synthesis target image, which has been subjected to the image adjustment processing, with the background image.

24. (NEW) An image sensing method of claim 13, further comprising:  
receiving an image adjustment command for adjusting at least one of a color adjustment and luminance adjustment; and

applying image adjustment processing for the at least one of a color adjustment and a luminance adjustment to a synthesis target image represented by the selected synthesis target image data based upon the received image adjustment command,

wherein said step of combining the selected target image data includes combining the synthesis target image data, which has been subjected to the image adjustment processing, with the background image data.



25. (NEW) An image sensing method of claim 13, further comprising:  
displaying images on a display unit;  
controlling said display unit so as to display the background image; and  
controlling said display unit so as to display the composite image.

26. (NEW) An image sensing method of claim 25, further comprising:  
receiving an adjustment command for adjusting at least one of a position  
and a size of a synthesis target image being displayed on the display unit; and  
applying an adjustment for at least one of position and size adjustment  
of the synthesis target image based upon the received adjustment command.